

On behalf of the people of Guam and his family, we will continue to keep you in our hearts, Peter, and wish you and your crew a safe voyage and congratulations. Welcome home. Thank you very much for your excellent service.

COMMANDER PETER A. GUMATAOTAO, UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDING OFFICER U.S.S. DECATUR (DDG 73)

Commander Peter A. Gumataotao, a native of Agana, Guam, earned his commission in May 1981 from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Resources Management.

His first tour at sea was on board U.S.S. *Bagley* (FF 1069) as First Lieutenant and CIC Officer. He later served as Battery Control Officer in U.S.S. *Worden* (CG 18). During this tour was the recipient of the Hawaii Navy League Award.

Ashore, he served as Assistant Surface Operations Officer and Surface Systems Analysis Officer for COMTHIRDFLT. He was COMTHIRDFLT's primary action officer for the planning and execution of Operational Test Launches of Tomahawk cruise missiles to include the only open ocean Tomahawk Anti-Ship Missile (TASM) live test shot conducted in the Pacific Fleet. During his tour as Combat Systems Officer aboard U.S.S. *Reuben James* (FFG 57), the ship received the Battle Efficiency Award, and his department was awarded the Spokane Trophy Award for Combat Systems excellence. Commander Gumataotao was the recipient of the COMNAVSURFPAC Shiphandler of the Year award while on board U.S.S. *Reuben James*. Additionally, U.S.S. *Reuben James* was one of two ships that accompanied CINCPACFLT on a historic port visit to Vladivostok, Russia in 1990. While serving as Combat Systems Officer for COMDESRON THIRTY ONE, Commander Gumataotao participated in numerous overseas warfare research and development projects both in open ocean and shallow water towed array operations.

Commander Gumataotao earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Strategic Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and was the United States representative at the Naval Staff College.

His most recent sea assignment was as Executive Officer on board U.S.S. *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54). During this tour, Commander Gumataotao assumed the duties as Commanding Officer of U.S.S. *Curtis Wilbur* while the ship was deployed to the Arabian Gulf. Following his sea tour, he served as a Fellow for the CNO Operations Strategic Studies Group at the Center for Naval Analysis in Washington, DC and then served as Congressional Liaison for Surface Programs at the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 46:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High, God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KELLY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE TAIWAN FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to alert his colleagues to the introduction of H.R. 3707, the Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act. This bill authorizes construction of modern, secure facilities for the American Institute on Taiwan.

In the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the Congress established the American Institute on Taiwan to perform on behalf of the United States Government any and all programs and other relations with Taiwan. These facilities are grossly inadequate today from a security perspective, and major enhancements would be necessary to bring them into compliance with security requirements.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must specifically act to authorize because it is not a normal embassy or a consulate.

Mr. Speaker, over 20 years after the enactment of the Taiwan Relations

Act, our unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan are stronger, more robust, and more important than ever. For very practical and security reasons, the Congress needs to act to upgrade our diplomatic facilities on Taiwan as well.

It will also demonstrate that we have and will have a presence in Taipei for the long-term, if necessary, to assure that any reunification is peaceful and uncoerced. This Member hopes that all Members of Congress will cosponsor and support this legislation.

BLISS MANUFACTURING BANKRUPTED

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Bliss Manufacturing in my district makes bumpers for General Motors. Not any more. Bliss bankrupted yesterday, putting 500 of my workers on the street due to two reasons: number one, the continuing flood of illegal steel imports; and number 2, after a recent decision by the United States International Trade Commission that ruled in favor of Japan, Russia, Brazil, and Korea.

Beam me up. Even the Youngstown Vindicator, one of the most respected newspapers in Ohio, one of the staunchest supporters of free trade in open markets, said enough is enough. I agree with the Youngstown Vindicator.

I will be submitting legislation this week that my colleagues should support. I want to yield back the gutless wonders of the United States International Trade Commission and the Clinton/Gore administration that appointed them.

COLOMBIA AID PACKAGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, soon the House is expected to consider the supplemental appropriations bill which contains the Colombia aid package. While this package is far from perfect, it is essential that we pass it now. Failure to do so would send a signal to the drug cartels in Colombia that this Congress is not serious about helping Colombia fight the war on drugs.

In fact, delaying the passage of this bill any further has and will lead to increased violence in Colombia. On March 8, just last week, for example, 100 guerillas from the drug cartel-backed FARC attacked a village 250 miles south of Bogota and released 92 of their compatriots who were imprisoned there. No doubt further delays will lead to more and even more bolder attacks.

This recent attack should present us with the more clear evidence that any